Quiz 8 - Chapter 07   
Political Participation: Activating the Popular Will   
  
1. When the nation was founded, who was eligible to vote?   
A. everyone—there was universal suffrage  
B. all males and females who were at least 21 years of age  
C. only males who owned property  
D. only citizens who had lived in the nation for at least ten years  
E. all native-born citizens   
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ elections tend to draw the largest percentage of voters in the U.S.   
A. Primary  
B. Mayoral  
C. Congressional  
D. Gubernatorial  
E. Presidential   
  
3. In the United States, the primary responsibility for registration of the individual voter rests with the   
A. state and local governments.  
B. local courts.  
C. employer.  
D. individual.  
E. federal government.   
  
4. One of the reasons voter turnout is lower in the United States than in Western European countries is that   
A. Americans pay less attention to politics.  
B. U.S. registration laws place a greater burden on the individual.  
C. the U.S. population is not as well educated.  
D. Europeans must pay a huge fine if they fail to vote.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In the United States,   
A. the federal government prevents states from restricting registration based on the amount of time a person has resided in that state.  
B. voter registration requirements have usually been set by the states.  
C. voter registration periods and locations tend to be highly publicized, but registration requirements prevent many from taking advantage of them.  
D. most states automatically register a person to vote when he or she acquires a driver's license.  
E. states with easier registration laws have shown no higher turnout rates than states with restrictive registration requirements.   
  
6. States with the most restrictive voter registration laws also have   
A. the lowest rates of verified voter fraud.  
B. turnout rates comparable to the national average.  
C. the highest rates of verified voter fraud.  
D. turnout rates well below the national average.  
E. the highest percentage of eligible voters registered.   
  
7. The adoption of voter identification cards by several states   
A. will likely cause a decline in voter turnout.  
B. is a policy intended to further the gains of the motor voter law.  
C. was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.  
D. will increase the voting power of poorer citizens.  
E. was a response to well-documented accounts of widespread electoral fraud.   
  
8. Voter identification cards find the most support among   
A. Democrats.  
B. Republicans.  
C. libertarians.  
D. liberals.  
E. poorer citizens.   
  
9. The frequency of elections in the United States reduces voter turnout by   
A. discouraging local politicians from playing an active role in presidential elections.  
B. creating more complex registration requirements.  
C. focusing too much attention on state and local elections.  
D. increasing the personal effort needed to participate in all elections.  
E. increasing the amount of taxes paid at the polls.   
  
10. Which of the following groups of people is MOST adversely affected by our country's voter registration system?   
A. senior citizens  
B. those with less income  
C. young adults  
D. women  
E. people with college degrees   
  
11. All of the following tend to decrease voter turnout EXCEPT   
A. sharp policy differences between major parties.  
B. alienation.  
C. frequent elections.  
D. an individualistic culture.  
E. lack of interest in politics.   
  
12. One's sense of civic duty and sense of apathy are attitudes that are usually acquired from one's   
A. economic status.  
B. community.  
C. education.  
D. parents.  
E. experience with voting.   
  
13. In comparison with citizens in Western European democracies, Americans are LESS likely to   
A. vote in national elections.  
B. actively work in an election campaign.  
C. participate in community activities.  
D. join an interest group.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
14. Citizens in which of the following countries are MOST likely to talk to people about politics?   
A. Germany  
B. France  
C. Great Britain  
D. United States  
E. There is no difference among the four nations.   
  
  
  
15. If Americans vote less than Europeans, why are they more likely to work for a political campaign than are citizens in Europe?   
A. America's federal system provides more campaign opportunities.  
B. European candidates seldom need campaign workers.  
C. Americans have more leisure time than Europeans.  
D. U.S. candidates pay campaign workers, whereas European candidates do not.  
E. Laws in some U.S. communities require citizens to participate in campaigns.   
  
16. When democratic governments came into existence, tax and food riots and other forms of protest greatly diminished. Why?   
A. Citizens had less-disruptive ways to express themselves.  
B. A government safety net ensured basic needs were met.  
C. Social scientists have been studying this phenomenon but do not have a conclusive answer.  
D. The wealth of citizens increased dramatically with democratic freedoms and liberty.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
17. The Tea Party's key initial issue was   
A. support for American military involvement in Iraq.  
B. support for American military involvement in Afghanistan.  
C. opposition to President Obama's climate change policies.  
D. opposition to high taxes.  
E. opposition to the Occupy Wall Street movement.    
  
18. Occupy Wall Street's main issue has been   
A. the power and wealth of the wealthiest Americans.  
B. the undue influence of the Tea Party in national politics.  
C. the high taxes paid by America's poor.  
D. the need to have better regulation of stock trading.  
E. the necessity of overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with socialism.   
  
19. When it comes to protest activities, a majority of Americans are   
A. actively involved in protests at one time or another in their lives.  
B. willing to contribute through financial support but not through active participation.  
C. not highly supportive of such activities, despite America's tradition of free expression.  
D. actively involved only later in their lives, when they feel more secure that a protest is justified.  
E. supportive of violent activities if the cause warrants such an approach.   
  
20. What did political scientist Larry Bartels demonstrate in his book Unequal Democracy?   
A. Elected officials are substantially more responsive to the concerns of their more affluent constituents than to those of their poorer constituents.  
B. Elected officials are substantially more responsive to the efforts of lobbyists than to the concerns of their constituents.  
C. Elected officials do not tend to respond to the efforts of social movements or protests when casting votes or forming policy.  
D. Elected officials tend to ignore the interests of their constituents when they make policy or cast votes, until just before they are up for reelection.  
E. Incumbents hold so much power in the United States and are so difficult to unseat that they have disenfranchised much of the voting population of the U.S.   
  
  
  
  
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Essay Questions  
  
  
51. Describe three systemic reasons Americans vote at a lower rate than Western Europeans.   
  
Americans vote at a lower rate than Europeans for several reasons. Although both American and European governments require their citizens to register to vote, European governments are usually responsible for locating and placing individuals on registration rolls. In the United States it is up to the individual to register. This personal responsibility discourages registration and hence lowers American voter turnout. The frequency of American elections reduces voter turnout by increasing the effort required to participate in all of them, and American elections are held during a workday instead of a holiday or weekend, making it even more difficult to get to the polls. Another reason for low voter turnout is the restrictive voter registration requirements that some states have in place. The United States also lacks the strong socialist or labor parties, politically-oriented trade unions, and class-based political ideologies that encourage the lower-income classes to vote in Europe.   
  
  
  
  
52. Give at least three reasons why some Americans vote regularly while others do not.   
  
One reason some Americans vote more regularly than others is that they have a more developed sense of civic duty. Civic duty is a belief that citizens have certain responsibilities, one of which is voting. Citizens who tend not to vote have a weak sense of Chapter 07   
  
Political Participation: Activating the Popular Will   
  
  
  
  
  
  
Multiple Choice Questions  
  
  
1. When the nation was founded, who was eligible to vote?   
A. everyone—there was universal suffrage  
B. all males and females who were at least 21 years of age  
C. only males who owned property  
D. only citizens who had lived in the nation for at least ten years  
E. all native-born citizens   
  
  
  
  
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2. African American men technically gained suffrage with the passage of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Amendment.   
A. Fifteenth  
B. Nineteenth  
C. Twenty-First  
D. Twenty-Third  
E. Twenty-Sixth   
  
  
  
  
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3. Literacy tests were used to   
A. disenfranchise African Americans in the South.  
B. finance election campaigns.  
C. ensure that women voted with their husbands, who legally controlled the money in a marriage.  
D. ensure that the people who voted would take the vote seriously.  
E. help subsidize public education in the North.   
  
  
  
  
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4. Women gained the right to vote   
A. with passage of the Bill of Rights.  
B. shortly after the Civil War.  
C. early in the twentieth century.  
D. with passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.  
E. during the era of Jacksonian democracy.   
  
  
  
  
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5. Eighteen-, nineteen-, and twenty-year-old Americans were granted the right to vote by the passage of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Amendment.   
A. Fifteenth  
B. Nineteenth  
C. Twenty-First  
D. Twenty-Third  
E. Twenty-Sixth   
  
  
  
  
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6. Since the 1960s, the level of turnout in presidential elections has averaged about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent.   
A. 75  
B. 65  
C. 60  
D. 45  
E. 35   
  
  
  
  
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7. In the twenty-first century, voting rates in the United States have   
A. shown little difference from those of the late twentieth century.  
B. remained lower than in nearly every other democracy.  
C. demonstrated that the apathy of young citizens has worsened considerably since the early 1990s.  
D. increased in all elections.  
E. declined in all elections.   
  
  
  
  
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8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ elections tend to draw the largest percentage of voters in the U.S.   
A. Primary  
B. Mayoral  
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D. Gubernatorial  
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E. federal government.   
  
  
  
  
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10. One of the reasons voter turnout is lower in the United States than in Western European countries is that   
A. Americans pay less attention to politics.  
B. U.S. registration laws place a greater burden on the individual.  
C. the U.S. population is not as well educated.  
D. Europeans must pay a huge fine if they fail to vote.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
  
  
  
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11. The "motor voter" law   
A. was passed in 1993.  
B. made it easier for citizens to register to vote.  
C. linked voter registration to the vehicle registration process.  
D. linked voter registration to the public assistance application process.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
  
  
  
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12. Scholars estimate that turnout would be roughly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percentage points higher in the United States if the U.S. had European-style registration.   
A. 2  
B. 5  
C. 7  
D. 10  
E. 15   
  
  
  
  
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13. Voter registration in the United States   
A. was introduced as a means of keeping white males without property from voting.  
B. began as a way of preventing voters from casting more than one ballot on election day.  
C. is the responsibility of the government, which adds legally qualified individuals automatically to the registration rolls.  
D. applies to voting in general elections but not in primary elections.  
E. has vastly increased voter turnout.   
  
  
  
  
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14. In the United States,   
A. the federal government prevents states from restricting registration based on the amount of time a person has resided in that state.  
B. voter registration requirements have usually been set by the states.  
C. voter registration periods and locations tend to be highly publicized, but registration requirements prevent many from taking advantage of them.  
D. most states automatically register a person to vote when he or she acquires a driver's license.  
E. states with easier registration laws have shown no higher turnout rates than states with restrictive registration requirements.   
  
  
  
  
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15. States with the most restrictive voter registration laws also have   
A. the lowest rates of verified voter fraud.  
B. turnout rates comparable to the national average.  
C. the highest rates of verified voter fraud.  
D. turnout rates well below the national average.  
E. the highest percentage of eligible voters registered.   
  
  
  
  
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16. Most candidates for office in the United States aim their appeals at the voters that hold the balance of power in U.S. elections   
A. those with high incomes.  
B. those of the middle class.  
C. labor unions and interest groups.  
D. corporate lobbying groups.  
E. those with low incomes.   
  
  
  
  
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17. Which of the following countries has had the HIGHEST estimated voter turnout in major national elections in recent decades?   
A. Denmark  
B. Germany  
C. United States  
D. Belgium  
E. France   
  
  
  
  
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18. Which of the following countries has had the LOWEST estimated voter turnout in major national elections in recent decades?   
A. Denmark  
B. Germany  
C. United States  
D. Belgium  
E. Canada   
  
  
  
  
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19. Which of the following states has relatively low turnout in elections?   
A. Idaho  
B. Maine  
C. Minnesota  
D. Indiana  
E. These four states have similar turnout rates compared to the national average.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
20. The adoption of voter identification cards by several states   
A. will likely cause a decline in voter turnout.  
B. is a policy intended to further the gains of the motor voter law.  
C. was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.  
D. will increase the voting power of poorer citizens.  
E. was a response to well-documented accounts of widespread electoral fraud.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
21. Voter identification cards find the most support among   
A. Democrats.  
B. Republicans.  
C. libertarians.  
D. liberals.  
E. poorer citizens.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
22. Which of the following states has a voter identification card law?   
A. Maine  
B. New Hampshire  
C. Minnesota  
D. Hawaii  
E. Wisconsin   
  
  
  
  
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23. The frequency of elections in the United States reduces voter turnout by   
A. discouraging local politicians from playing an active role in presidential elections.  
B. creating more complex registration requirements.  
C. focusing too much attention on state and local elections.  
D. increasing the personal effort needed to participate in all elections.  
E. increasing the amount of taxes paid at the polls.   
  
  
  
  
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24. What percentage of states hold their gubernatorial elections in nonpresidential years?   
A. 25 percent  
B. 33 percent  
C. 50 percent  
D. 66 percent  
E. 75 percent   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
25. Which of the following groups of people is MOST adversely affected by our country's voter registration system?   
A. senior citizens  
B. those with less income  
C. young adults  
D. women  
E. people with college degrees   
  
  
  
  
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26. Compared with U.S. citizens of higher incomes, those of lower incomes are   
A. much less likely to vote in elections.  
B. about equally likely to vote in elections.  
C. much more likely to vote in elections.  
D. much less likely to vote in elections—a pattern that is also true in European democracies.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
  
  
  
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27. Education and income affect voter turnout   
A. more in the United States than in Europe.  
B. more in Europe than in the United States.  
C. only in national elections in the United States.  
D. only in national elections in Europe.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
28. Voter turnout is LOWEST in which age group?   
A. young adults  
B. middle-aged adults  
C. older adults  
D. senior citizens  
E. Voter turnout is essentially the same for all age groups.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
29. All of the following tend to decrease voter turnout EXCEPT   
A. sharp policy differences between major parties.  
B. alienation.  
C. frequent elections.  
D. an individualistic culture.  
E. lack of interest in politics.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
30. As distinct from alienation, apathy is   
A. associated with a high rate of voter turnout.  
B. a feeling of powerlessness.  
C. a general lack of interest in politics.  
D. a sign that the political system is working properly.  
E. widespread among affluent Americans.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
  
31. One's sense of civic duty and sense of apathy are attitudes that are usually acquired from one's   
A. economic status.  
B. community.  
C. education.  
D. parents.  
E. experience with voting.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
32. Regular voters tend to be characterized by a   
A. strong sense of alienation, which motivates them to try to change government.  
B. strong sense of civic duty.  
C. desire to use government as a vehicle to help other Americans rather than themselves.  
D. strong sense of independence, which motivates them to try to defeat incumbents.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
  
  
  
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33. Many white, working-class citizens failed to vote in the 1968 and 1972 elections because they felt alienated by the centrality of which political issue?   
A. civil rights  
B. the Vietnam War  
C. the economy  
D. immigration  
E. youth protest   
  
  
  
  
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34. Voting   
A. is a limited form of political participation.  
B. provides citizens with a regular way to express themselves.  
C. is the most widespread form of political participation.  
D. is both a means by which government controls the people and a means by which the people control government.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
35. In comparison with citizens in Western European democracies, Americans are LESS likely to   
A. vote in national elections.  
B. actively work in an election campaign.  
C. participate in community activities.  
D. join an interest group.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
36. Citizens in which of the following countries are MOST likely to talk to people about politics?   
A. Germany  
B. France  
C. Great Britain  
D. United States  
E. There is no difference among the four nations.   
  
  
  
  
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37. Citizens in which of the following countries are MOST likely to engage in political activities, such as volunteering for political campaigns?   
A. Germany  
B. France  
C. Great Britain  
D. United States  
E. There is no difference among the four nations.   
  
  
  
  
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38. The citizens of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are MOST likely to participate as campaign volunteers during an election.   
A. the Netherlands  
B. Great Britain  
C. the United States  
D. Germany  
E. France   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
39. If Americans vote less than Europeans, why are they more likely to work for a political campaign than are citizens in Europe?   
A. America's federal system provides more campaign opportunities.  
B. European candidates seldom need campaign workers.  
C. Americans have more leisure time than Europeans.  
D. U.S. candidates pay campaign workers, whereas European candidates do not.  
E. Laws in some U.S. communities require citizens to participate in campaigns.   
  
  
  
  
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40. The chief obstacle to Americans' participation in community activities is the   
A. lack of opportunity, because there are few groups active at this level.  
B. lack of personal motivation to get involved.  
C. low potential for success, since key decisions are made at the national level.  
D. low potential for success, since key decisions are made at the state level.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
41. Volunteer activity is LOWEST in the   
A. Midwest.  
B. West.  
C. Plains states.  
D. South.  
E. Northeast.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
42. When democratic governments came into existence, tax and food riots and other forms of protest greatly diminished. Why?   
A. Citizens had less-disruptive ways to express themselves.  
B. A government safety net ensured basic needs were met.  
C. Social scientists have been studying this phenomenon but do not have a conclusive answer.  
D. The wealth of citizens increased dramatically with democratic freedoms and liberty.  
E. None of these answers is correct.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
  
43. A sustained action taken by citizens disenchanted with government in order to express their opposition and work to bring about the change they seek is a   
A. social movement.  
B. voter upsurge.  
C. citizen lobby.  
D. popular resistance.  
E. regular election.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
44. Political protests   
A. have recently seen success primarily with liberal or leftist protest groups.  
B. are seen by most Americans as something to be accepted but not admired.  
C. are more common in the United States today than in most European democracies.  
D. have become more spontaneous and unlawful in recent years.  
E. are today mostly aimed at local laws and local political targets.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
45. The Tea Party's key initial issue was   
A. support for American military involvement in Iraq.  
B. support for American military involvement in Afghanistan.  
C. opposition to President Obama's climate change policies.  
D. opposition to high taxes.  
E. opposition to the Occupy Wall Street movement.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
46. The Tea Party   
A. is aligned with the moderate wing of the Republican Party.  
B. has been backed by wealthy conservative donors.  
C. has urged compromise with Democrats on tax and spending issues.  
D. has yet to have any of its supporters elected to Congress.  
E. All these answers are correct.   
  
  
  
  
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47. Occupy Wall Street's main issue has been   
A. the power and wealth of the wealthiest Americans.  
B. the undue influence of the Tea Party in national politics.  
C. the high taxes paid by America's poor.  
D. the need to have better regulation of stock trading.  
E. the necessity of overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with socialism.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
48. In which of the following countries are rates of protest the LOWEST?   
A. Sweden  
B. Germany  
C. France  
D. United States  
E. Spain   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
49. When it comes to protest activities, a majority of Americans are   
A. actively involved in protests at one time or another in their lives.  
B. willing to contribute through financial support but not through active participation.  
C. not highly supportive of such activities, despite America's tradition of free expression.  
D. actively involved only later in their lives, when they feel more secure that a protest is justified.  
E. supportive of violent activities if the cause warrants such an approach.   
  
  
  
  
Accessibility: Keyboard Navigation  
  
  
  
50. What did political scientist Larry Bartels demonstrate in his book Unequal Democracy?   
A. Elected officials are substantially more responsive to the concerns of their more affluent constituents than to those of their poorer constituents.  
B. Elected officials are substantially more responsive to the efforts of lobbyists than to the concerns of their constituents.  
C. Elected officials do not tend to respond to the efforts of social movements or protests when casting votes or forming policy.  
D. Elected officials tend to ignore the interests of their constituents when they make policy or cast votes, until just before they are up for reelection.  
E. Incumbents hold so much power in the United States and are so difficult to unseat that they have disenfranchised much of the voting population of the U.S.   
  
  
  
  
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Essay Questions  
  
  
51. Describe three systemic reasons Americans vote at a lower rate than Western Europeans.   
  
Americans vote at a lower rate than Europeans for several reasons. Although both American and European governments require their citizens to register to vote, European governments are usually responsible for locating and placing individuals on registration rolls. In the United States it is up to the individual to register. This personal responsibility discourages registration and hence lowers American voter turnout. The frequency of American elections reduces voter turnout by increasing the effort required to participate in all of them, and American elections are held during a workday instead of a holiday or weekend, making it even more difficult to get to the polls. Another reason for low voter turnout is the restrictive voter registration requirements that some states have in place. The United States also lacks the strong socialist or labor parties, politically-oriented trade unions, and class-based political ideologies that encourage the lower-income classes to vote in Europe.   
  
  
  
  
52. Give at least three reasons why some Americans vote regularly while others do not.   
  
One reason some Americans vote more regularly than others is that they have a more developed sense of civic duty. Civic duty is a belief that citizens have certain responsibilities, one of which is voting. Citizens who tend not to vote have a weak sense of civic duty. Another factor is age. Younger adults are less likely to live in the same place from one election to the next, making continued voter registration more difficult. Finally, voting is closely related to education and income levels. The higher the person's education and income levels, the more likely he or she will vote. This relationship is particularly strong in the United States because there is no socialist or labor party to appeal to people with lower incomes and education; and because these same people are less likely to own cars or homes, which again makes continued voter registration more difficult.   
  
  
  
53. Why are people of higher income and education levels more likely to be politically active?   
  
Americans of lower income and education levels tend to vote less than those with higher income and education levels. People of higher income and education are more likely to possess the financial resources, communication skills, and time to engage in potentially rewarding political activities, such as voting. Also, the U.S. political system does not have structures (for example, a labor party or universal registration) that would encourage lower-income and less educated citizens to participate. In addition, it has been shown that most candidates for office and elected politicians make their appeals to middle-class voters to a much greater degree than to voters with lower incomes and education levels.   
  
  
  
  
54. What does the author mean by unconventional activism? Provide examples, and describe Americans' attitudes toward unconventional activism.   
  
Unconventional activism refers to political movements and protests. Political movements, or social movements, are usually channeled through conventional forms of participation, such as political lobbying; but citizens sometimes take to the streets in protest against government policies. Protest politics can threaten established authority, such as during the civil rights movement, and occasionally provoke a violent response from government, as the Kent State and Jackson State shootings illustrate. Through demonstrations, picket lines, and marches, protesters dramatize their opposition to official policies. Recent examples include the activities of the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street (OWS). In general, most Americans are not highly supportive of protest politics. They generally see protest as something to be accepted but not necessarily admired, and would prefer that people voice their discontent through elections.   
  
civic duty. Another factor is age. Younger adults are less likely to live in the same place from one election to the next, making continued voter registration more difficult. Finally, voting is closely related to education and income levels. The higher the person's education and income levels, the more likely he or she will vote. This relationship is particularly strong in the United States because there is no socialist or labor party to appeal to people with lower incomes and education; and because these same people are less likely to own cars or homes, which again makes continued voter registration more difficult.   
  
  
  
53. Why are people of higher income and education levels more likely to be politically active?   
  
Americans of lower income and education levels tend to vote less than those with higher income and education levels. People of higher income and education are more likely to possess the financial resources, communication skills, and time to engage in potentially rewarding political activities, such as voting. Also, the U.S. political system does not have structures (for example, a labor party or universal registration) that would encourage lower-income and less educated citizens to participate. In addition, it has been shown that most candidates for office and elected politicians make their appeals to middle-class voters to a much greater degree than to voters with lower incomes and education levels.   
  
  
  
  
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